

General

Title

Assessment of risk and prevention of malnutrition: percentage of intensive care unit (ICU) patients who are assessed for risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission.

Source(s)

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to determine the percentage of patients admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) for at least two days who are assessed for the risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission. The explicit assessment may be based on specific indexes such as the Subjective Global Assessment (SGA) or the Screening Tool for the Nutritional Control (CONUT) scales, or on the following symptoms:

- Cachexia

- Weight loss in the last three months of greater than 10%

- Serum albumin less than 30 gr/l

- Artificial nutrition

- Inadequate oral feeding during greater than 1 week

Rationale

Malnourished patients experience increased morbidity and mortality and prolonged hospital stays. Malnutrition in hospitalized patients is frequently not recognized. Providing nutritional support to patients who are either malnourished or at risk of malnutrition can result in improved clinical outcomes and fewer adverse events. Intensive care unit (ICU) patients are particularly at risk.

Main aim of indicator: to increase the percentage of ICU patients who are assessed for the risk of malnutrition in the first 24 hours after admission.

Primary Clinical Component

Malnutrition; assessment; intensive care unit (ICU)

Denominator Description

Number of patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) for more than 48 hours

Numerator Description

Number of patients assessed for risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission to intensive care unit (ICU) x 100 (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

A systematic review of the clinical literature

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Need for the Measure

Overall poor quality for the performance measured

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud España. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use

Current routine use

Current Use

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

Care Setting

Hospitals

Professionals Responsible for Health Care

Advanced Practice Nurses

Nurses

Physicians

Lowest Level of Health Care Delivery Addressed

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

Target Population Age

Unspecified

Target Population Gender

Either male or female

Stratification by Vulnerable Populations

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

Incidence/Prevalence

Intensive care unit (ICU) patients are not routinely assessed for risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission.

Evidence for Incidence/Prevalence

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud EspaÃ±ol. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Association with Vulnerable Populations

Unspecified

Burden of Illness

See the "Rationale" field.

Utilization

Unspecified

Costs

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

Getting Better

Living with Illness

IOM Domain

Effectiveness

Safety

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding

Users of care only

Description of Case Finding

Patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) for more than 48 hours

Denominator Sampling Frame

Patients associated with provider

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of patients admitted to intensive care unit (ICU) for more than 48 hours

Exclusions

None

Relationship of Denominator to Numerator

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

Denominator (Index) Event

Institutionalization

Denominator Time Window

Time window brackets index event

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

Number of patients assessed* for risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission to intensive care unit (ICU) x 100

*The explicit assessment may be based on specific indexes such as the Subjective Global Assessment (SGA) or Screening Tool for the Nutritional Control (CONUT) scales, or on the following symptoms:

- Cachexia
- Weight loss in the last three months of greater than 10%
- Serum albumin less than 30 gr/l
- Artificial nutrition
- Inadequate oral feeding during greater than 1 week

Exclusions

None

Measure Results Under Control of Health Care Professionals, Organizations and/or Policymakers

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

Numerator Time Window

Fixed time period

Data Source

Administrative data

Medical record

Level of Determination of Quality

Individual Case

Pre-existing Instrument Used

Subjective Global Assessment (SGA)

Screening Tool for the Nutritional Control (CONUT)

Computation of the Measure

Scoring

Rate

Interpretation of Score

Better quality is associated with a higher score

Allowance for Patient Factors

Unspecified

Standard of Comparison

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

Extent of Measure Testing

After pilot testing, the set of indicators has been measured in a random sample of 25 Spanish hospitals, stratified by hospital size. The main objective has been to field test the feasibility of measurement in the various settings representing real life situations in the context of the Spanish Health Care System.

Both the whole indicators validation report and the results of the baseline measurement in a sample of the Spanish National Health Service (NHS) hospitals may be accessed and downloaded from the Spanish Ministry of Health web page (in Spanish):

[Validation report](#)

[Results of baseline measurement in Spanish NHS hospitals](#)

Evidence for Reliability/Validity Testing

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p.

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

Identifying Information

Original Title

Percentage of intensive care unit (ICU) patients who are assessed for risk of malnutrition within 24 hours after admission.

Measure Collection Name

Safe Practices Indicators Project

Measure Set Name

Adopting Safe Practices in Specific Clinical Care Settings or for Specific Processes of Care

Measure Subset Name

Prevention of Malnutrition in Hospitalized Patients

Submitter

Spanish Agency for Healthcare Quality of the Spanish Ministry of Health - National Government Agency [Non-U.S.]

Developer

Grupo de Investigación sobre Gestión de la Calidad en Servicios de Salud, University of Murcia, under contract to the Spanish Ministry of Health - National Government Agency [Non-U.S.]

Funding Source(s)

Agency for Quality, Spanish Ministry of Health

Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

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Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

Project entirely financed by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

Adaptation

Measure was not adapted from another source.

Release Date

2009 Feb

Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

Source(s)

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

Measure Availability

The individual measure, "Percentage of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Patients Who are Assessed for Risk of Malnutrition Within 24 Hours After Admission," is published in "Safe Practices Indicators Project: Background, Summary of Methods and Measurement Strategies."

For more information, contact:

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Companion Documents

The following are available:

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construccin y validacion de indicadores de buenas practicas sobre

seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p. This document is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](#) (in Spanish).

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud EspaÃ±ol. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p. This document is available in PDF from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](#) (in Spanish).

NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on September 11, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on December 23, 2009.

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